

The Hazard Mitigation Branch of AEMA administers the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs. The mission of the HMA is to protect individuals and property from natural hazards, while simultaneously reducing reliance on Federal disaster funds. Mitigation is conceptually distinct from repair of damaged facilities. After disasters, many damaged facilities are simply repaired to the pre-disaster conditions. Such repair actions are not mitigation because they do not reduce the potential for future damages and losses.

Eligible applicants for the HMA include State and local governments, certain private-non-profits, and federally recognized Indian tribes. While private citizens cannot apply directly for the grant programs, they can benefit from the programs if they are included in an application sponsored by an eligible applicant. The primary function of AEMA Mitigation staff is to provide technical assistance and support for the applicants throughout the mitigation process, so that all communities can become more resilient in the face of natural disasters affecting their citizens.

Another core mitigation component is mitigation planning. Hazard mitigation planning is the process State, local and tribal governments use to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters, and to develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property in future hazard events. The planning process results in a mitigation plan that offers a strategy for breaking the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. All counties in Alabama have FEMA-approved, multi-jurisdictional mitigation plans, which makes all of the entities that participated in the planning process eligible for the grant programs. The State of Alabama also has a FEMA-approved mitigation plan, prepared with the assistance of state agencies named in Executive Order 19. All of these plans are located on this web-site.

Examples of common mitigation projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquiring flood-prone structures to remove them from the floodplain

- Elevating flood-prone structures

- Improving storm water drainage systems

- Adding hurricane shutters to improve building wind resistance

- Strengthening buildings or infrastructure to resist earthquakes

- Construction/Installation of community or individual safe rooms that meet requirements in FEMA 320/361

- Bracing building contents to resist earthquakes

- Mitigation planning activities

The HMA is composed of five different grant programs. One of these programs, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is a post-disaster program, meaning that it becomes available following a Presidentially declared disaster. The remaining four programs become available every fiscal year, subject to Congressional appropriation. The programs are as follows:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):

The HMGP is one of the major disaster assistance programs that is available following a Presidentially disaster declaration. The program enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the recovery from a disaster.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM):

The PDM program provides funds to eligible applicants for eligible, cost effective mitigation measures prior to a disaster event. Funds become available at the beginning of the federal Fiscal Year.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA):

The purpose of the FMA program is to provide funds for mitigation activities that eliminate or reduce the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). All properties must be insured at the time of grant application. The funds become available at the beginning of the federal Fiscal Year.

Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC):

The purpose of the RFC is to provide funds to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that have had one or more claim payments for flood damages. The funds become available at the beginning of the federal Fiscal Year.

Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL):

The purpose of the SRL program is to provide funds to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to severe repetitive loss residential structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). SRL properties are residential properties that are covered under an NFIP flood insurance policy and:

- (a) That have at least four NFIP claim payments (including building and contents) over \$5,000 each, and the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeds \$20,000;

(b) For which at least two separate claims payments (building payments only) have been made with the cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the market value of the building.

For both (a) and (b) above, at least two of the referenced claims must have occurred within any ten-year period, and must be greater than 10 days apart.

The funds become available at the beginning of the federal Fiscal Year.

Any persons interested in being included in an application for any of the above programs should contact their appropriate local government. For additional information on the programs, please contact:

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